

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1999

U.S. mine production of iron ore in August 1999 was 26% lower than that of July 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Shipments decreased 6%, and mine stocks decreased by about 15%. Consumption and trade data for August 1999 will be included in a subsequent issue. Consumption and stocks of iron ore and blast furnace production of hot metal at U.S. iron and steel plants in May was not available for the Iron Ore in June 1999 Mineral Industry Surveys (MIS). It is included in this MIS

as Table 5.

Domestic iron ore production in August experienced its largest drop since labor strikes caused a 50% decline in August of 1993. The current drop, to 3.9 million metric tons, the lowest production for any month since the August 1993 total of 2.8 million tons, was attributed to the massive increase in steel imports.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 5% or more of manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Production		Shipments	
	Monthly	Year to date	Monthly	Year to date
1998:				
August	5,839	41,545	6,297	38,674
September	5,384	46,929	5,613	44,288
October	5,279	52,208	5,626	49,913
November	5,113	57,321	5,707	55,621
December	5,269	62,591	5,733	61,354
1999:				
January	4,891	4,891	2,181	2,181
February	4,587	9,479	900	3,081
March	5,145	14,624	2,619	5,699
April	4,846	19,470	6,265	11,965
May	5,473	24,943	6,117	18,082
June	5,047	29,990	5,935	24,017
July	5,249	35,239	5,942	29,959
August	3,872	39,111	5,572	35,531

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

TABLE 2  
U.S. PRODUCTION, SHIPMENTS, AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE IN AUGUST 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

District	Production		Shipments 2/		Stocks 3/	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998
Lake Superior:						
Michigan	700	1,495	1,091	1,324	4,284	2,955
Minnesota	3,172	4,344	4,481	4,973	5,323	4,657
Total	3,872	5,839	5,572	6,297	9,607	7,707

1/ Excludes byproduct ore.

2/ Includes rail and vessel.

3/ Includes mines, plants, and loading docks.

TABLE 3  
CANADA: SHIPMENTS OF IRON ORE

(Thousand dry metric tons)

Period	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	British Columbia	Total 1/
1998:					
July	2,562	922	--	6	3,490
August	2,299	946	--	8	3,253
September	1,709	1,187	--	11	2,907
October	1,747	1,379	--	9	3,135
November	1,215	1,418	--	13	2,645
December	1,651	923	--	8	2,583
Year total	21,628	13,232	651	110	35,621
1999:					
January	569	1,674	--	8	2,251
February	459	528	--	6	992
March	455	642	--	5	1,101
April	1,485	1,236	--	7	2,727
May	2,236	1,316	--	10	3,562
June	1,210 r/	1,356	--	7	2,573 r/
July	2,102	1,266	--	6	3,373

r/ Revised.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada.

TABLE 4  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	July		January-July	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,854	4,790	32,578	34,662
Canadian ores	370	603	3,040	3,942
Foreign ores	314	477	2,906	3,565
Total 1/	5,537	5,869	38,523	42,170
Consumption by process	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	July 31		January-July	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Blast furnaces	5,207	5,313	35,212	38,251
Steel furnaces	1	7	30	43
Agglomerating plants 2/	329	541	3,279	3,848
Miscellaneous 3/	--	8	2	27
Total 1/	5,537	5,869	38,523	42,170
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	July 31		January-July	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Furnace yards	14,284	16,951		
Receiving/transfer docks	3,267	2,584		
Total consumer	17,550	19,535		
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	July		January-July	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,814	4,008	26,257	29,323
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	33	39	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 5  
CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS OF IRON ORE AND  
BLAST FURNACE PRODUCTION OF HOT METAL AT U.S. IRON AND STEEL PLANTS 1/  
(Not available in time for inclusion in an earlier report)

(Thousand metric tons)

Consumption by source	Consumption of ores and agglomerates			
	May		January-May	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
United States ores	4,886	4,972	23,001	25,297
Canadian ores	488	623	2,327	2,802
Foreign ores	477	490	2,285	2,618
Total 1/	5,850	6,084	27,614	30,718
Consumption by process				
Blast furnaces	5,296	5,559	24,943	27,843
Steel furnaces	6	7	28	30
Agglomerating plants 2/	549	513	2,641	2,826
Miscellaneous 3/	0	5	2	19
Total 1/	5,850	6,084	27,614	30,718
Storage point	Stocks of ores and agglomerates			
	May 31			
	1999	1998		
Furnace yards	13,203	13,357		
Receiving/transfer docks	3,079	2,523		
Total consumer	16,281	15,880		
	Blast furnace production of hot metal			
	May		January-May	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
Hot metal and pig iron produced in blast furnaces	3,948	4,292	18,774	21,415
No. of blast furnaces operating on the last day of the month	34	39	XX	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Iron ore and iron ore concentrates consumed in agglomerating plants not located at the mine or plant site.

4/ Sold to nonreporting companies or used for purposes not listed.

Sources: American Iron Ore Association (consumption of iron ore) and American Iron and Steel Institute (production of hot metal and pig iron).

TABLE 6  
U.S. EXPORTS OF IRON ORE, BY COUNTRY  
OF DESTINATION AND TYPE 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination and type	1999				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	May	June	July
Canada	500	2,271	742	734	400
Mexico	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Other	8	6	2	4	1
Total 3/	509	2,277	743	737	401
Pellets	495	2,262	741	726	394
Other	13	14	2	11	6
Total 3/	509	2,277	743	737	401

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE,  
BY COUNTRY AND TYPE 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

Country of origin and type of product	1999					1998
	July		January-July			January-July
	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 2/ (thousand dollars)	Value 2/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Australia	62	892	423	5,833	13.79	337
Brazil	243	5,927	2,533	63,348	25.01	3,660
Canada	671	20,006	2,609	79,818	30.59	4,542
Mexico	1	21	7	118	16.86	8
Peru	--	--	40	589	14.73	95
Sweden	54	1,716	155	4,950	31.94	262
Venezuela	--	--	262	19,281	73.59	697
Other	70	2,044	221	6,751	30.55	96
Total 4/	1,101	30,606	6,250	180,689	28.91 5/	9,698
Concentrates	209	4,500	500	8,571	17.14	673
Coarse ores	--	--	296	9,427	31.85	247
Fine ores	194	4,487	1,840	39,422	21.44	1,794
Pellets	697	21,596	3,071	99,420	32.37	6,511
Briquettes	--	--	195	16,929	86.82	128
Other agglomerates	1	23	342	6,538	19.12	341
Roasted pyrites	--	--	7	362	51.71	4
Total 4/	1,101	30,606	6,250	180,689	28.91 5/	9,698

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

4/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

5/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 8  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE IN JULY 1999  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese) 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of origin	Type of product						Total 3/
	Concentrates	Coarse ores	Fine ores	Pellets	Briquettes and other agglomerates	Roasted pyrites	
Brazil	105	--	70	68	--	--	243
Canada	42	--	--	629	--	--	671
Mexico	--	--	--	--	1	--	1
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	62	--	124	--	--	--	186
Total 3/	209	--	--	697	1	--	1,101

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY COUNTRY

Country of origin	1999					1998
	July		January-July			January-July
	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Thousand metric tons	Value 1/ (thousand dollars)	Value 1/ (dollars per ton)	Thousand metric tons
Brazil	68	2,270	723	22,759	31.48	1,943
Canada	629	19,326	2,173	70,564	32.47	4,069
Venezuela	--	--	67	2,352	35.10	299
Other	--	--	108	3,746	35.01	200
Total 2/	697	21,596	3,071	99,420	32.37 3/	6,511

1/ Customs value. Excludes international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Weighted average calculated by dividing total value by total tonnage.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 10  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT 1/  
(Exclusive of ore containing 20% or more manganese)

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	July	January-July	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	1,444	2,306
Buffalo, NY (09)	--	(2/)	11
Charleston, SC (16)	--	253	374
Chicago, IL (39)	437	953	905
Cleveland, OH (41)	123	279	503
Detroit, MI (38)	131	413	1,020
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	49
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Los Angeles, CA (27)	--	(2/)	16
Miami, FL (52)	--	(2/)	--
Mobile, AL (19)	146	929	2,558
New Orleans, LA (20)	208	1,850	1,778
Nogales, AZ (26)	1	7	8
Ogdensburg, NY (07)	--	--	(2/)
Philadelphia, PA (11)	54	60	155
Total 3/	1,101	6,250	9,698

1/ Includes agglomerates.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

3/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 11  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF PELLETS, BY CUSTOMS DISTRICT

(Thousand metric tons)

Customs district	July	January-July	
	1999	1999	1998
Baltimore, MD (13)	--	430	841
Charleston, SC (16)	--	148	226
Chicago, IL (39)	228	453	556
Cleveland, OH (41)	123	227	426
Detroit, MI (38)	131	413	1,020
Houston - Galveston, TX (53)	--	45	49
Laredo, TX (23)	--	16	13
Mobile, AL (19)	146	923	2,258
New Orleans, LA (20)	68	416	1,029
Philadelphia, PA (11)	--	--	94
Total 2/	697	3,071	6,511

1/ Less than 1/2 unit.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

Source: Bureau of the Census.